



Dear Friends:

Welcome to 2007! I hope this year is a healthy and prosperous one for you and your family.

We created this calendar to provide basic information on a variety of environmental issues and to encourage you to make “green choices” that help protect your health and the environment. We chose issues for each month as a way to organize the calendar but please remember that you can use any tip from any month at anytime! Most environmental issues are inter-related. For example, some of the actions you can take to Choose Clean Air can result in reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. Similarly, you may choose energy conservation measures that also benefit our air quality.

Many of the choices listed for each month refer you to Web sites for more information. I encourage you to learn more about all these green choices. To facilitate easy access to all the Web sites referenced in this calendar, we created www.greenchoices.utah.gov as a portal. This site is also accessible on our homepage at www.deq.utah.gov

Thank you for your personal efforts to protect Utah’s environment. I am confident that, together, we can all make a significant difference.

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Executive Director
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About DEQ “Green Choices” Programs

DEQ administers a number of outreach programs aimed at educating Utah residents about what they can do to protect their health and Utah’s environment including:

Adopt-A-Waterbody (AAW): is a program designed to benefit Utah’s water resources through the actions of volunteer groups. Any individual or group can adopt a public surface or ground water resource, such as a lake, pond, stream, wetland, or aquifer. Most groups adopt small sections of waterways near their homes or organizations and complete enhancement projects. For more information go to: www.adoptawaterbody.utah.gov/

Asbestos: Asbestos is most commonly found in older homes, in pipe and furnace insulation materials, asbestos shingles, millboard, textured paints and other coating materials, and floor tiles. Unless you do the work yourself, the only legal option in having asbestos removed from your home is to hire a certified abatement contractor. Removing asbestos from your home can be dangerous as some asbestos fibers can be released into the air making exposure unavoidable. There is no known safe level of asbestos exposure. For more information visit: www.airquality.utah.gov/

Choose Clean Air The Choose Clean Air campaign encourages individuals to make choices that protect our air quality. Air quality is important all year, so DEQ issues air quality alerts during the winter inversion and summer ozone seasons, when pollution level rise due to weather conditions.

From November 1 through March 1 each year, the “Red Light-Green Light” program aims to curtail air pollution caused by vehicle emissions, wood and coal-burning stoves and fireplaces. Daily notifications are issued using a color coded alert system. Green means burning is allowed, yellow encourages less driving and voluntary no-burning, and red means no burning is allowed and driving is discouraged.

The Summer Ozone Season runs from June 1 through September 1, a period of time when ground-level ozone (sometimes called smog) is most likely to occur. Ozone is formed when automobile, industrial, and other emissions chemically react at high temperatures. DEQ issues air quality alerts calling for a “No Drive Day” when exceptionally high concentrations of ground-level ozone are forecast. To automatically receive Choose Clean Air alerts visit: www.cleanair.utah.gov/



Put Used Oil in Its Place! Recycle Used Oil: The used oil program promotes proper collection and disposal of do-it-yourselfer (DIYer) used oil. DIYer oil is generated through household activities including maintenance of personal vehicles. Used oil collection centers are available for the public to bring their DIYer oil to be recycled. For locations and more information visit: www.usedoil.utah.gov/



Get the Mercury Out! Mercury is a toxic chemical that, if released to the environment, can cause serious ecological and health problems. Mercury is found in household products like thermometers, thermostats, and fluorescent bulbs. The mercury in these products is generally contained in glass or metal so it does not pose a risk unless the product is damaged or broken and mercury vapors are released. Knowing what products contain mercury, handling them properly, and knowing what to do in case of a spill will help limit the risk of mercury exposure to family members and pets. For more information on how to “Get the Mercury Out” of your home visit: www.deq.utah.gov/Mercury/

Lead: Lead paint poisoning continues to be a concern for children under the age of six. In addition to lead paint, lead-contaminated dust and soil are primary sources of lead exposure. Children are especially susceptible to lead poisoning and elevated blood lead levels can trigger learning disabilities, decreased growth, hyperactivity, impaired hearing and even brain damage. If you plan to purchase or remodel a home built before 1978, please visit our Web site to learn more about lead paint removal and lead poisoning prevention: www.airquality.utah.gov



PowerForward: PowerForward: PowerForward is a public-private partnership sponsored by DEQ and Utah’s electric utilities to promote an ethic of energy conservation and efficient use in homes, businesses, and state-owned buildings. The PowerForward color coded alert system notifies citizens and businesses when additional conservation measures should be taken to avoid involuntary outages. To automatically receive PowerForward alerts visit: www.powerforward.utah.gov/

Radon: Radon is a naturally occurring, odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas produced by the breakdown of uranium in rocks and soil. It is harmlessly dispersed in outdoor air, but when trapped in buildings, can be harmful, especially at elevated levels. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, after smoking. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Surgeon General have recommended that all residences (except those above the second floor) be tested for radon. To order a test kit visit: www.radon.utah.gov/